

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 00840 230826Z

12

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 840

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNDP, EAID, SW, VS

SUBJECT: UNDP 19TH GOVERNING COUNCIL: SWEDISH RECOMMENDATION RE
UNDP VIETNAM COUNTRY PROGRAM

REF: USUN 205

1. I HAVE NOTED PETERSON COMMENTS RECORDED PARAS 2 AND 3 OF REFTEL
THAT HE NOT PREPARED TO CONFRONT EITHER U.S. OR SYMPATHETIC ASIAN
STATE ON ISSUE OF SVN PROGRAMS AND USUN CONCLUSION THAT, HAVING
HEARD SWEDES, DANES, FINNS AND INDIANS ON THIS ISSUE, HE WOULD
MAINTAIN STATUS QUO.

2. WE FIND IT HARD TO ACCEPT THIS CONCLUSION IN VIEW OF CABLE SENT
IN CLEAR TEXT THROUGH GVN/PTT TO PIERRE SALES, RESIDENT DIRECTOR FOR
UNDP PROGRAMS IN GVN. TEXT FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

NEW YORK NY 87/82 22 1441

ETATPRIORITE

UNDEVPRO

SAIGON

DP09 SALES CONFIDENTIAL UR3 AT RECENT SENIOR STAFF

MEETING ADMINISTRATOR DECIDED YOUR CURRENT ASSIGNMENT VIET-NAM
SHOULD TERMINATE ON COMPLETION TWO YEARS SERVICE I.E. END MARCH
1975 AFTER WHICH YOU WILL BE TRANSFERRED HEADQUARTERS TO POST TO
BE DETERMINED LATER. IT WAS ALSO ADMINISTRATOR'S DECISION IN
CONSULTATION WITH US MISSION THAT SINCE LONG RANGE PLACEMENT
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POSSIBILITIES FOR YOU AT PRESENT UNCLEAR YOUR FIXED-TERM

CONTRACT WILL NOW BE EXTENDED ONE YEAR I.E. THROUGH 31/1/76.
GRATEFUL YOUR CABLED ACCEPTANCE PROPOSED EXTENSION.

IRWIN
END TEXT.

3. ALTHOUGH AMERICAN, SALES HAS MAINTAINED INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY UNDP LOCAL STAFF. TELEPHONE INQUIRY TO CHIEF SE ASIA BRANCH REVEALED SHE UNAWARE SUCH PREEMPTORY ACTION. UNDP PERSONNEL DIRECTOR, "WITH SOME EMBARRASSMENT", CONFIRMED THAT CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL PRESSURE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON DIRECTOR FROM WALDHEIM AND, PRESUMABLY, ALSO FROM NORDICS AND INDIANS. SALES OFFENSE, APPARENTLY, IS THAT HE HAS DONE TOO GOOD A JOB IN MAKING UNDP PROGRAMS EFFECTIVE.

4. NET EFFECT OF THIS ACTION, OBVIOUSLY HIGHLY POLITICAL IN NATURE, IS THAT UNDP PUTS UP GREAT SHOW OF INDEPENDENCE "IN MAINTAINING INTEGRITY OF PROJECTS APPROVED BY GC" WHILE ACTIVELY, IN FACT, ACCEDING TO NORDIC AND INDIAN DEMANDS BY REPLACING SALES WITH EITHER LESS CAPABLE OR EVEN UNFRIENDLY DIRECTOR WHO WOULD EITHER SLOW PROGRAMS OR DELIBERATELY IMPEDE THEIR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION.

5. WHETHER PETERSON ACTUALLY PLAYING THIS GAME, IS, OF COURSE, COMPLETELY UNKNOWN HERE. WHETHER HIS ALLEGED DECISION CAN BE REVERSED BY STRONG INTERVENTION OF USUN OR IO ON GROUNDS THAT SALES SHOULD BE EXTENDED FOR ONE MORE YEAR TO CARRY FORWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS SUCCESSFULLY UNDERWAY, CAN ONLY BE DETERMINED, IT WOULD SEEM TO US, BY MAKING THE EFFORT.

6. SINCE PENULTIMATE SENTENCE OF CABLE QUOTED IN PARA 2 ABOVE, IMPLIES PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH USUN, WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHETHER SUCH CONSULTATION WAS, AS WE ASSUME, ONLY ON THE NARROW TECHNICAL PERSONNEL ISSUE OF SALES STATUS AND FUTURE, OR ON BROADER GROUNDS.

7. AS I HAVE OBSERVED BEFORE, IF THE COUNTERVAILING PRESSURE BROUGHT BY THE US DOES NOT EQUAL IN INTENSITY AND TIMELINESS THAT BROUGHT TO BEAR BY THE NORDICS, INDIANS, AND OTHERS, WE ARE GOING TO SUFFER FURTHER DEFEATS IN THE UN CONTEXT AND THE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF SUCH EROSION ARE EXTREMELY DAMAGING. I KNOW
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THIS IS FULLY UNDERSTOOD IN USUN BUT I HOPE THE EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE WORK BEING DONE IN NEW YORK CAN BE MORE FULLY SUPPORTED FROM WASHINGTON.
MARTIN

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NNN

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